



## Testimony of the Montgomery County Young Democrats Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee in Support of SB 859–Fair Share for Maryland Act

March 3rd, 2025

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, members of the Committee:

The Montgomery County Young Democrats (MCYD) urge a favorable report for [SB 859](#)–the Fair Share for Maryland Act of 2025. This bill will provide revenue that Maryland needs while also ensuring that wealthy corporations and individuals are contributing their fair share for the services that we all benefit from.

MCYD is a club of young Democrats ages 14-35 who work to make Montgomery County and Maryland better places to live, to elect Democrats, and to get young people involved in politics and advocacy. We thank all the Montgomery County sponsors, especially Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr, for their work on this bill.

We believe that all Marylanders should have freedom and justice, and be able to better themselves by seizing opportunities. An essential part of this is adequate funding for government functions and services, such as education, transportation, health care, the criminal justice system, and welfare. We also believe strongly in economic growth that benefits everyone, including middle class and working class Americans–meaning broad-based prosperity instead of austerity.

Maryland is facing a substantial budget deficit but we cannot grow our economy if we make harmful cuts to essential things like public schools, child care, and transportation. The choices we make in our budget determine our moral values. Providing adequate funding to schools means that children will learn more easily, and we have seen too many children struggle to learn in inadequate facilities. Providing support for transportation means less pollution and increased freedom for working class Marylanders to get to and from work. And providing increased support for child care means that parents can go to work and contribute to our state, and that kids are

taught life skills and not neglected. MCYD is especially familiar with these struggles, because many of our members have gone through them or seen others go through them.

The Fair Share for Maryland Act, SB 859, will help us live up to these values and close our budget gap. It will close corporate tax loopholes to ensure that huge, wealthy multinational corporations can't avoid paying state taxes, raising an estimated \$576 million. It will close the LLC loophole where many large businesses operate as these entities to be exempt from taxes, raising another \$745 million. The bill will also balance Maryland's upside-down tax system and ensure millionaires pay their fair share by adding upper income tax brackets, including a 7% tax increase on people whose income is \$1 million a year or more, adding \$419 million, and adding a surtax on investment income. Finally, SB 859 will increase the number of state tax auditors to ensure that people are paying their taxes.

It is not fair for the lowest income Marylanders to pay higher taxes than the wealthiest Marylanders, but that is currently what is happening. The Fair Share for Maryland Act will make sure there is a single fair tax code for all, and help make investments in our state's future.

We urge the Committee to favorably report SB 859. Please contact us at [mocoyoungdems@gmail.com](mailto:mocoyoungdems@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

The Montgomery County Young Democrats